

Beyond High School:

Exploring Vocational Education and Other Training Opportunities

Students and their families look forward to graduation from high school and the possibilities the future holds. The shift to adulthood doesn't magically happen following the commencement ceremony. Careful planning takes place prior to graduation to ensure a successful transition. Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings starting at the age of 14 years address the vocational interests of the special education student.

Individualized Education Program

A coordinated team of educators, service providers and agencies assist the student and his/her family to explore training opportunities. The student's needs are assessed and team members assume a variety of roles to help the student reach his/her goals. Post-secondary education, vocational training, employment options, adult social services, independent living skills, financial planning, and community participation are all transition topics to consider.

Vocational Education

The IEP will address individual strengths and needs. Academic classes, work place skills aligned with the Arizona Standards, vocational programs, and job training experiences tailored to his/her needs will help the student prepare for the transition to adulthood. Vocational education - education for employment - is critical for the student who wants to enter the work force following high school. Career exploration, decision making, learning appropriate ways of interacting in social and work situations, finding and maintaining employment, and learning self-advocacy skills should be a part of the program. Services may start during high school and continue after graduation. That's why it is crucial for the IEP team to involve agency representatives who can offer support services beyond high school.

Employment

Vocational options can range from competitive jobs to supported employment environments. As needed, services offered by Vocational Rehabilitation may include; evaluation, help finding employment, job skills training, disability specific modifications, assistive aids and services, and access to additional resources. Individuals with disabilities may also be eligible for services from The Division of Developmental Disabilities or financial assistance from the Social Security Administration.

Community Participation

High school activities and community programs will prepare the special education student for inclusion in adult social pastimes. Students should be included in extracurricular sports and clubs. They may also be interested in participating in city recreation programs to foster interest in other activities and form new friendships. Young adults with a variety of hobbies and special interests, including independent and group involvement in sports, clubs and civic activities, tend to be more satisfied with their transition after high school.

Independent Living Skills

Include independent living skills in the transition planning process. The student must be trained to the best of his/her ability to manage their personal care, income and finances, transportation needs, medical care and living arrangements. Some students will be capable of living independently. Other students may need assistance. In any case, the student who has a disability should have options and assistance to reach his/her full potential. IEP team participants can use their knowledge and resources to make transition from high school to adulthood as meaningful and successful as possible for the special education student.

RESOURCES

Arc of Arizona, The
5610 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85040
(602) 243-1787 or 800-252-9054
* guardianship services
* OASIS (Organized Advocates for
Special Individuals in Society)

AZ Bridge to Independent Living/ABIL
1229 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034-1101
(520) 256-2245 or 800-280-2245
<http://www.abil.org>
* independent living services

Arizona Center for Disability Law
3839 N. Third Street, Suite 209
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 274-6287 or 800-927-2260 or
3131 N. Country Club, Suite 100
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 327-9547 or 800-922-1447
<http://www.nau.edu/~ihd/acdl.html>
* printed resources, advocacy services

Arizona Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services
Parent Information Network
1535 W. Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 364-4015 or 800-352-4558
<http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals/>

Arizona Training & Evaluation Center
7400 N. Olive Ave, Suite 24
Peoria, AZ 85345
(602) 412-2888 or
4018 S. White Mountain Rd.
Show Low, AZ 85901

(520) 537-9744

* assessment and training services

Division of Developmental Disabilities

1789 W. Jefferson

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-0419

* state-wide case management and
direct services

Goodwill Industries

2225 N. Steves Blvd.

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

(520) 526-9188 or

1940 E. Silverflake Rd., Suite 405

Tucson, AZ 85713

(520) 623-5174

* employment training services

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

1717 W. Jefferson, Room 112, SC074Z

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-4049

<http://www.nau.edu/~ihd/gcdd/>

* information and referral, advocacy

Guardianships of Southern AZ, Inc.

P.O. Box 13253

Tucson, AZ 85732

(520) 620-6170

* guardianship services

HEATH Resource Center

One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036-1193

(202) 939-9320 or 800-544-3284

<http://www.accnet.edu/programs>

* printed resources

Institute on Community Integration

University of Minnesota

109 Pattee Hall

150 Pillsbury Drive SE

Minneapolis, MN 55455

(612) 624-4512

* printed resources

InterAct Arizona

ASU West

P.O. Box 37100

Phoenix, AZ 85069-7100

(602) 543-3258 or 877-225-1256

<http://www.west.asu.edu/transitionaz>

* state-wide transition resources

Maricopa Skills Center

1245 E. Buckeye Road

Phoenix, AZ 85034

(602) 238-4300

<http://gwinfo.gwc.maricopa.edu/msc/>

* vocational training services

NICHCY (National Information Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities)

P.O. Box 1492

Washington, DC 20013

800-695-0285

<http://www.nichcy.org>

* printed resources

Navajo Office of Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation

P.O. Box 1420

Window Rock, AZ 86515

(520) 871-6338

* information and vocational services

New Horizons Independent Living Center

2501 N. 4th Street, #11

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

(520) 214-7102 or 800-406-2377

* regional information and training
centers

Rehabilitation Services Administration

Vocational Rehabilitation

(602) 542-3332 or 800-563-1221

* state-wide vocational services

Raising Special Kids

4750 N. Black Canyon Hwy, #101

Phoenix, AZ 85017

(602) 242-4366 or 800-237-3007

* books, videos, workshops

Trade schools listed in your local directory may also be of interest to students.

This brochure was developed by Becky Raabe in March 2000 with funding from the AZ Department of Education, Contract No. ED00-0006-001 under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Inclusion in this document does not constitute endorsement by either Department. The document is in the public domain and may be reproduced and disseminated.

SE 09

Beyond High School

Exploring Vocational Education and Other Training Opportunities

Arizona Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services
Parent Information Network

June 2000

W H T M

d
<
π
%

0 ' ¶ Ü ø yuquququququququqe \$

{u{

W Y

